

Commissioner's Weekly Wrap Up

DCS Communications Office

September 10, 2004

This Week In Central Office

Wednesday, September 8

Commissioner Miller and Governor Bredesen joined First Lady Andrea Conte for the kick-off of Andrea Walks for Tennessee's Children at the Memphis Child Advocacy Center. More details follow below.

Thursday, September 9

The Commissioner was the featured guest on WTVF-TV's "Morning Line" on Comcast channel 50 in the Nashville area. The call-in show received questions for the Commissioner on a wide range of topics, including the Bryan A. lawsuit, Central Intake and CPS.

The Week Ahead

Monday, September 13

The Commissioner will attend an EPSDT Steering Committee Meeting and a Children's Cabinet meeting at the state Capitol.

Thursday, September 16

The Commissioner will meet with Governor Bredesen.

Summertime Slim Down Update – Human Resources Development

Employee Comment: I see no reason to keep doing employee evaluations. They were designed and used in the past to calculate merit raises. We no longer get those. What's the point of doing all the paperwork if it has no bearing on anything?

Ratings on performance evaluations were at one time used to help determine who received merit raises, but that was never the primary purpose for evaluations. Performance evaluations are a valuable management tool, and any viable organization must have a credible method to measure how well employees meet established performance standards. Evaluations are required by the Department of Personnel.

Performance evaluations also have value for the employee. Employees earn bonus points on promotional registers for positive evaluations. An overall rating of 3 earns one bonus point, a rating of 4 earns two bonus points, and a rating of 5 earns three bonus points. Many employees also use positive evaluations as reference tools when searching for new jobs.

Andrea Walks for Tennessee's Children



Tennessee First Lady Andrea Conte kicked off “AndreaWalks for Tennessee’s Children,” her statewide initiative to raise awareness and funding for the state’s 25 child advocacy centers. The First Lady, along with our own Commissioner Viola Miller, began walking in Memphis on September 8. She will cover more than 600 miles across the state before ending the event in Blountville next spring.

“Last year in Tennessee, 6,000 children were seen at Children’s Advocacy Centers across the state. These Centers provide treatment and support for children who have been sexually abused or severely physically abused. I invite concerned citizens in communities across the state to join me and walk to raise awareness about the problem of child abuse. Together, we can protect our state’s greatest resource, our children,” said Conte.

Money raised from “AndreaWalks” will benefit 27 different organizations and will fund public awareness programs, educational materials and counseling for child victims of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse.

During a press conference in April, Conte explained she wanted to find a way to promote the work the state’s child advocacy centers are doing to help child victims of sexual or severe physical abuse and established “AndreaWalks For Tennessee’s Children.” Conte and registered participants will walk up to 10 to 15 miles per day and will continue until mid-November. The walk will resume mid-February 2005 and continue across the state for a tentative completion date of May 1.

“AndreaWalks For Tennessee’s Children” is a collaborative effort of the Office of the First Lady, Tennessee Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers, and You Have the Power...Know How to Use It, Inc. to raise awareness and funding about child abuse and the importance of child advocacy centers. To learn more, to register or to make a donation to child advocacy centers, visit www.AndreaWalks.com.

"AndreaWalks" Schedule

2004

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Media Contact</u>
West Tennessee		
9/14 - 9/16 9/28	Jackson - Lexington Dresden - Martin	Margie Maddux - 615.253.3600 (O) 615.478.1141 (M)
Middle Tennessee		
10/5 - 10/7 10/12 - 10/14	Clarksville - Springfield Springfield - Gallatin	Beth Denton - 615.251.5131 (O) 615.202.6628 (M)
10/18 - 10/22	Lawrenceburg - Fayetteville	Jennifer Johnson - 615.744.4087 (O) 615.210.1646 (M)
10/27 - 10/28	Nashville - Franklin	Kim Keelor - 615.741.2331 (O) 615.566.9204 (M)
11/3 - 11/5	Murfreesboro - Lebanon	Amanda Sluss - 615.532.0288 (O) 615.351.4598 (M)
11/9 - 11/12 11/17	Tullahoma - McMinnville Cookeville	Diane Denton - 615.741.3111 (O) 615.708.9384 (M)

2005

East Tennessee

To be announced



When enthusiasm is driven by confidence any goal can be accomplished.

- Robert E. Regent

Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come, you have to get up and make them.

- Madame C. J. Walker
